

4-0069

Conf
The Honorable Harry F. Byrd
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Byrd:

A few weeks ago I called you with reference to the editorial in the Richmond NEWS LEADER of Monday, 30 March 1953, which I mentioned to you over the telephone. In case you have not seen the editorial I enclose a copy.

Since I talked with you I have had a letter on the same subject from Representative Burr P. Harrison whose letter I enclose together with my reply. The fact that from time to time we will be the subject of newspaper criticism does not in itself disturb me. That is quite normal and we would be the first to admit that we have no claim to infallibility. I trust that we shall always have the good sense to take such criticism in our stride and without feeling obliged to issue explanations or denials.

There is, however, a problem raised by the NEWS LEADER editorial which I would like to discuss with you. And I turn to you not only because the inquiries came from persons in your state but also as one of the senior members of the Armed Services Committee which is particularly concerned with our work. This problem is the general policy which wisdom should dictate to us in dealing from time to time with the type of criticism in this editorial which implies, wrongly I believe, that there is a duty on our part to answer demands for information regarding confidential phases of our work.

As you know, a procedure has been set up and is working quite satisfactorily, whereby we make available to certain designated members of the appropriate committees of Congress such information as they consider necessary in justification of the expenditures called for by our activities. This has been done so far without any breach of security whatsoever.

Possibly you would have a moment when I could drop in to see you to discuss this problem in more detail.

Faithfully yours,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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Possibly you would have a moment when I could drop in to see you to discuss this problem ~~of [REDACTED]~~ in more detail.

Faithfully yours,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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ER-3-5265a

JAN 7 1953

The Honorable Harry F. Byrd
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Byrd:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding
the Savannah River project, with its enclosures
from your constituent.

The matter which you have called to my
attention is primarily one for the security people
in the Atomic Energy Commission and the Federal
Bureau of Investigation, and I am calling it to their
attention.

With Best Wishes for a Happy New Year,
I am

Sincerely,

SIGNED:

Walter B. Smith
Director

OGC:WLPforzheimer/blc
Orig. & 1 - addressee
2 - Signers
1 - Asst Deputy (I&S) for compliance with Par. 2 - w/basic
2 - Legislative Counsel

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Note in longhand by DCI:
"The photo is certainly an
eye-stopper! WBS"

Official

WN 22182

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REMARKS:

I have no pride of authorship and believe this can be improved upon.

LBK
 I have looked at this letter, and whereas I might have phrased it somewhat differently - it suits me very well - with one exception.

Characterization in the last part of the first paragraph.